REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-6, 8-17, 19-23 and 26-31 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 12-17, 19, 20, and 26 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found at least in paragraphs 35-36 on pages 13-14 of the application as originally filed.

Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted with Applicant's counsel Joe Sosinski on February 27, 2009. Applicant summarizes the interview as having discussed the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection, the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection and discussed clarifying the search range with regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the "computer readable storage medium" language used in claims 12-19. Per the February 27 interview, Applicant has amended claims 12-19 to recite a "computer readable memory medium." Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the "memory 655" described in paragraph 43 on page 16 of the application as originally filed. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

35 U.S.C. §101 Rejections

Claims 12-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 12-17 and 19 to recite a "computer readable memory medium." Support for such a medium may be found in paragraph 43 of the specification. A memory medium is configured to store instructions. The Federal Circuit has stated that a computer readable storage medium cannot be properly interpreted as covering a signal or carrier wave. A computer readable memory medium is a computer readable storage medium. Accordingly, the claimed computer readable memory medium is not directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8-17, 19-23, and 25-31 stand rejected as not being enabled by the specification. Based on the discussion between Applicant's counsel and the Examiner, Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 20, and 26 to remove the claim language "the second frame offset in time from the first frame." Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim is enabled by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

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Claims 1-3, 12-14, 20-22, and 26-28

Claims 1-3, 12-14, 20-22, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Sohn (2003/0202592) and Chen (6,043,838). Applicant does not admit that Sohn is prior art and reserves the right to challenge the reference at a later date.

Sohn teaches a system in which frames of video data may be encoded using disparity vectors, motion vectors, or both. When encoding with disparity vectors, a disparity vector is generated from a reference frame relative to a destination frame. When the frame is subsequently decoded, the reference frame is used in conjunction with the disparity vector to recreate the destination frame. When using disparity vectors for encoding, the reference frame and destination frame occur at the same moment in time, but represent different views of a scene.

Chen teaches predicting an enhancement layer image using a lower layer image. The lower layer image may originate from a camera with a different view of the scene. To better match the lower layer image to the enhancement layer image, Chen offsets the lower layer image to compensation for the difference in view.

As amended, claims 1, 12, 20 and 26 claim a constrained search range centered over an initial seed with the height of the search range determined by the desired correlation between efficient compression and semantic accuracy.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that neither Sohn nor Chen teach constraining a search area relative to the epipolar line.

However, the Examiner takes the position that between two images of the same

view, there is always an epipolar line in one image corresponding to pixels in

another, which may fall within whatever search range is used. However, neither

Sohn nor Chen teach a search range centered over an initial seed with the height

of the search range determined by the desired correlation between efficient

compression and semantic accuracy. Accordingly, claims 1, 12, 20 and 26 are not

obvious in view of the combination of Sohn and Chen. Applicant therefore

respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claims 4-6, 15-17, 23, and 30

Claims 4-6, 15-17, 23, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being obvious in view of Sohn, Chen, and Van Horn (6,243,599).

Van Horn teaches a method of calculating an epipolar line using a

fundamental matrix.

Claims 4-6, 15-17, 23, and 30 depend upon claims 1, 12, 20, and 26, which

are patentable over Sohn and Chen for the reasons stated above. Van Horn does

not correct the shortcomings of Sohn and Chen. Accordingly, claims 4-6, 15-17,

23, and 30 are patentable over the combination of Sohn, Chen, and Van Horn.

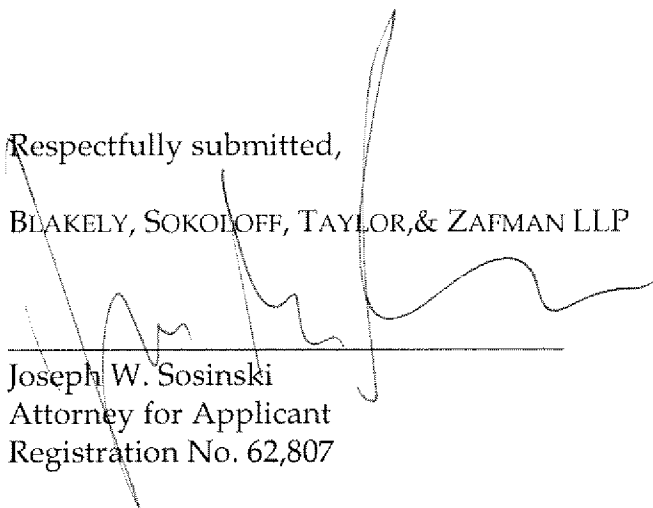Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-6, 8-17, 19-23 and 26-31 are currently pending. Applicant

respectfully submits that in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the

pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner determines that the prompt allowance of these claims can

be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe

Sosinski at (408) 962-7585.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR,& ZAFMAN LLP

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